

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

A substitute sheet for Figure 13A is submitted herein that addresses the objection to the drawings noted in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. The drawings were objected to for an informality. Claims 1, 3, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 19, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,926,616 to Sato et al. (herein "Sato"). Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,327,260 to Shimomae et al. (herein "Shimomae").

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Each of the claims 1, 3, and 8 is amended by the present response to no longer recite the term "steps" in the last lines thereof. The claim amendments are believed to address the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, 19, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sato, and the further rejection of claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Shimomae, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

It is initially noted that each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now clarifies that the first linearly aligned dots that are first multiplied are "of odd lines in the main-scanning direction X". Claim 1 now also clarifies that the second linearly aligned dots that are second multiplied are "of even lines in the main-scanning direction X". The other

independent claims are similarly amended. That subject matter is also fully supported by the original specification, see for example page 18, line 27 et seq.

The pending claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

More specifically, the primary cited reference to Sato is not believed to teach or suggest any operation in which linearly aligned dots of odd lines are multiplied by a first positive integer D_y and linearly aligned dots of even lines are multiplied by a second positive integer R_y . In fact, Sato is not believed to disclose any type of second multiplying that may be different from an initial multiplying.

To meet the limitations directed to the second multiplying the outstanding Office Action cites Sato at column 2, lines 13-15.¹

With respect to the above-noted basis for the rejection, Sato discloses at column 2, lines 13-15 that “[t]he invented printing method multiplies the horizontal resolution of an input dot image by an odd integer m , greater than unity, to produce an intermediate image”. That portion of Sato is not believed to disclose or suggest any operation in which linearly aligned dots of even lines are second multiplied by an integer that can differ from an integer utilized to multiply first linearly aligned dots of odd lines.

That is, according to the claims as currently written linearly aligned dots of odd lines are multiplied by a first positive integer D_y , whereas linearly aligned dots of even lines are multiplied by a second positive integer R_y . In Sato it appears that only a single multiplication of all dots by a single integer is disclosed.

In such ways, each of the claims is believed to clearly distinguish over the teachings in Sato.

Moreover, no teachings in Shimomae are relied upon to address any of the above-noted features noted above as neither taught or suggested by Sato.

¹ Office Action of September 11, 2003, page 4, first paragraph.

In such ways, each of the claims is believed to clearly distinguish over the outstanding rejections.

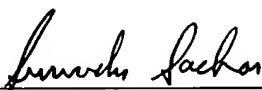
As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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